THE IRON TRADE.—If any alteration can be noticed, it has been a further tendency to decline rather than to improvement; and the trifling transactions of the last fortnight appear, in several instances, to have been concluded upon somewhat lower terms. While the first makes are commanding something near the nominal figures, it is not going too far to say that others are now to be had at 15s. per ton lower. From the Scotch market accounts are gloomy, reporting 3d. per ton decline. Notwithstanding these adverse symptoms, it is generally expected that there will be no declaration of reduction at the approaching quarterly meeting, but that existing prices will be maintained.—*Birmingham Gazette.*——The preliminary meeting of the South Staffordshire and Shropshire ironmasters was held at Wolverhampton, on Wednesday in last week, when it became a subject of consideration whether or not the nominal prices for the ensuing quarter should be reduced in accordance with the recent acknowledged downward tendency. No nominal reduction, however, was agreed to.

THE IPSWICH MUSEUM.—The anniversary of this thriving and useful institution was celebrated on Wednesday and Thursday in last week. On Wednesday Sir Charles Lyell delivered the anniversary lecture at the Corn-exchange "On the White Chalk," in course of which he adduced several new facts which he regarded as militating against the development theory of animal life, and in favour of his own. The annual meeting and soirée was held at the Museum on Thursday, when the galleries were crowded with ladies, and the floor was also fully occupied. The Bishop of Norwich took the chair. Mr. G. Ransome, the honorary secretary, read the annual report, and Sir Charles Lyell, in moving its adoption, congratulated the meeting on the flourishing account of the finances, as well as the gratifying and encouraging statistical fact that more than 60,000 visits had been paid in the course of the year to the collection; which, he was sure, as the report stated, was destined, under the superintendence of his friend Professor Henslow, to become a model to other museums, which he hoped would soon be multiplied throughout the country. Professor Henslow renewed his suggestion of evening lectures once a month to the working classes. Various objects were set out for exhibition, and the soirée passed off with *éclat*.

MONUMENT TO WEBER.—The committee for the erection of a monument to the memory of the celebrated Carl Maria von Weber, notwithstanding that the necessary funds are wanting, has been so bold, confidiug in the patriotism of the Germans, as to order the execution of the statue of the great musician by the hand of Professor Reitschel, which will afterwards be cast in bronze. Will England not join in the subscription?—England, to which country Weber devoted his never-forgotten "Oberon!"—*Art-Journal.*

WIDE TENDERS.—I send you the following tenders for building a new villa at Pottersbury, in the county of Northampton: Mr. E. F. Law, architect. The quantities were furnished, which makes the difference in the amounts very extraordinary:—

W. M. Cooper, Derby	£1,679
Arnold and Cowley, Stratford	1,451
Howes and Bowden, Towcester	1,425
Savage and Blunt, Northampton	1,320
Twelvetrees, Biggleswade	1,265
Sparrow, Northampton	1,245
Thompson and Roberts, Northampton	1,210
Green, Northampton	1,199
Cosford and Fisher, Northampton	1,180
Watkins, Northampton	1,112

Mr. Green's tender was accepted.—Z. Z.

TENDERS FOR ROADS.—The following tenders were received for making roads on the Westminster Freehold Land Society's estate at Reigate:—

J. Gibb	£1,245
J. H. Brown	1,175
T. Cook and Co.	1,150
J. F. Mathews	1,060
W. Wells	1,019
W. Adamson	895
E. Murray	894
J. Knight and Son	889
J. Becks	856

MONSIEUR HITTORFF, OF PARIS.—We understand that this distinguished architect has been directed to prepare for the municipal authorities designs for two large schools of mutual instruction and Christian doctrine, (?) the one for 600, the other for 1,200 pupils; the site intended for the latter being one that affords an opportunity for very effective treatment. He is also engaged upon a "*cirque d'hiver*," to be erected on the Boulevard du Temple. The central area will exceed 136 feet in diameter, and the roof to cover this vast space will be so ingeniously arranged, as to be carried directly by the enclosure walls, without any intermediate pillars, or being suspended like his roof to the Panorama in the Champs Elysées. Some changes are in contemplation in the Place de la Concorde, and it is whispered that the Prince President, anxious to mark his government by some striking architectural feature, has directed M. Hittorff to prepare a colossal project, so vast, nay, gigantesque, that the conceptions of the loftiest fancy do not exceed it, and it will vie with any of the most magnificent designs of ancient Rome!

EVENING LECTURES ON CONSTRUCTION.—We observe that, for the convenience of gentlemen who are already articled to civil engineers or architects, Mr. Clegg and Mr. Geddes intend, on the 14th inst. to commence a series of evening lectures upon the principles of construction, pure mathematics, and the mathematical principles of mechanical philosophy, upon which most of the calculations necessary for practical purposes are based. The subjects of the first term of twenty-four lectures are—"The Nature and Properties of Materials used in Building, and the Methods of applying them in Work"—"Strength of Materials; Effects of Position in Work; Cranes, Scaffolding, and the Application of the Mechanical Powers"—"Floors; Roofs; Centerings; Timber-bridges"—"Retaining Walls; Brick and Stone Bridges; Oblique Bridges."

ENERGY AND PERSEVERANCE.—An unsuccessful competitor for the Academy silver medal, who signs himself "the Defeated but not yet Conquered Student," and writes to us in defence of the step taken by the competitors, shows the possession of an amount of determination and perseverance (if his statement be true, which we have no reason to doubt) that entitles him to commendation. He says:—"I had every thing against me, being but a very poor architectural student, with not one farthing but what I earn through my pencil, and scarcely a friend to assist me. The office hours are from half-past nine to six, and I was never away a day the whole time, and even my master admitted only five minutes too late twice. I had an hour's walk to the church, and could then only work till nine o'clock or after half-past six. For a whole continuous week I had only a bun, perhaps, from breakfast time at or before five to eight at night: still I did succeed in measuring the whole, from the "dragon" downwards; yet, from these circumstances, had not time to finish my drawings, and thereby came in for none of the honour. But I can scarcely see any reason to envy others, who have received only what they deserved, being more fortunate than myself. Patience and perseverance,—'try again,' say I."

NORWICH SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—On Tuesday, in last week, the annual distribution of prizes to the students in this school took place in the school room, in presence of a numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. Sir J. B. Boileau, Bart., the president of the institution, occupied the chair. The *Norwich Chronicle* remarks that comparatively few of the students competed for *designs*, the main purpose of such institutions. Except in long-established schools of design, however, this will be the case so long as the teachers must first teach their pupils drawing itself, and this they must generally do, until those elementary schools, the establishment of which we have advocated, as well as the general adoption of drawing as a branch of elementary instruction in every ordinary day school, shall have fully prepared the way for the schools of design.

CONDENSATION OF MOISTURE IN SHOP-WINDOWS.—A "Tauntonian" adds another unit to the multitude of requisitionists for a remedy. We can only reply, as we have so often done, that where gas is used in close glass-cased window sills or openings, and deposits moisture on the glass, thorough ventilation (not at the ceiling alone, but immediately from above the jet, by means of a properly arranged tube,) ought to be resorted to. In the present instance, however, moisture obscures the glass even when no light is burning. In such circumstances, and indeed wherever the ventilation is imperfect, some deliquescent substance, such as chloride of calcium in a dry or anhydrous state, might be kept exposed in fitting receptacles within the case. Even newly burnt and unslacked lime might be tried. The expense, with any substance capable of being repeatedly and readily dried by heat after deliquescence, would only consist of the cost of the first supply; and even that would not be much. Should "A Tauntonian" or any other of our readers think it worth while to try such an experiment, we hope he will report to us the result, for the benefit of others. Any practical chemist could advise as to the cheapest and best of the deliquescents for such a purpose, and how to manage it.

STEAM ON CANALS.—A series of experiments to test the applicability of steam power to canal purposes, has recently been made by the Grand Junction Canal Company. In the present instance, the object has been to economise the steam power hitherto wasted, by employing it to produce high tractive power, in lieu of speed. The wave is said to be entirely done away with, by limiting the passage of the boat through the water to a moderate rate of progress.

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION.—By a clause in the new City Sewers Act now in force, the provisions with respect to houses in a ruinous and dangerous state are extended to any house or building which, in the opinion of the medical officer of health, is permanently unwholesome and unfit for human habitation.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

IRON BRIDGES AND PIERS.

DREDGE'S taper balance, on tension, in small bridges, with the same weight of iron, is three times the strength of the common principle, and this advantage rapidly increases to ten, twenty, and forty times, and so on, as bridges are increased in span; and in point of safety and inflexibility, it is equally superior. Dredge's taper balance girder possesses the same relative advantages over the common girder bridge.—JAMES DREDGE, Bath.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

POTTER AND PAYNE v. ESSINGTON.

IN the report of the above on the 13th inst., given in THE BUILDER, a portion of the evidence of the defendant was omitted, as was also that of the plaintiff, Mr. Potter. The latter stated, "the working drawings and specification were made at Birmingham. The first time I saw the specification was when it was returned by the committee, when I made the indorsement on it as to its incorrectness." The defendant said in evidence, "had Mr. Potter been the architect, no doubt the work would have been well performed, but as soon as the drawings were done with Mr. Potter left Mr. Payne to carry them out."

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